Melbourne Knights

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Round 8

Melbourne Knights v Eastern Pride

Sunday 3rd December 2000 • Kick-off 5.00pm

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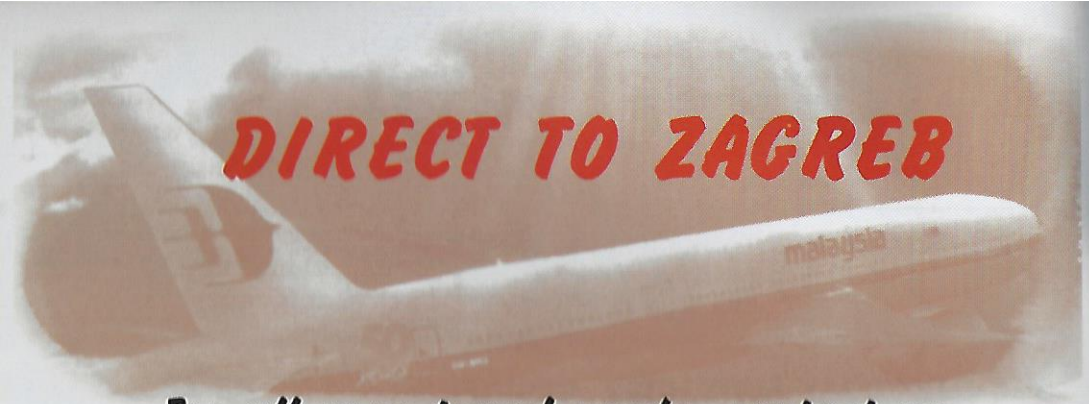

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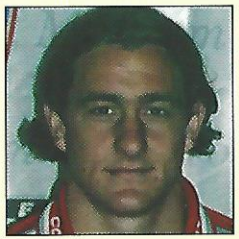

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Front cover: Knights striker Joel Porter taking on experienced South Melbourne defender Mehmet Durakovic in the Derby match 3 weeks ago,

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Disclaimer: the opinions expressed in this program do not necessarily reflect those of the Melbourne Knights Soccer Club.

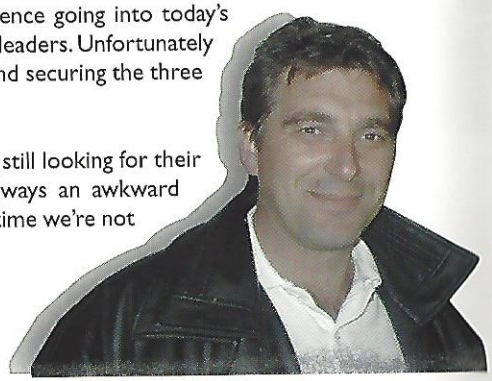
From the Moose's Mouth

I once again welcome you all to Knights Stadium for today's match against Eastern Pride. Today we are looking to continue our impressive home record, where we have had two wins and only the one narrow loss to Wollongong.

At the start of the season I said that any team visiting Knights Stadium will have quite a job on their hands to take the points off us and that still stands.

Last week wasn't a bad match from our perspective, and the boys played quite well. We had three genuine chances, but we didn't finish them. As the match wore on, we knew it would be increasingly difficult to obtain the three points, so for the last 20 minutes we sat back to hold out for a draw. It was all going well until the final seconds of the match when a 30metre free kick from the left side hit George Goutzioulos on the head and went in. A positive sign for us was that Sydney Olympic didn't stand out against us, even though they're on top of the ladder.

The result doesn't really change anything because a point doesn't really do much for us on the ladder, although it would've been good for our confidence going into today's match with a point under our belts after playing league leaders. Unfortunately we didn't and now we have to focus on today's match and securing the three points.



Eastern Pride is pushover, despite the fact that they are still looking for their first victory of the season. We know the Pride is always an awkward opponent to play at Knights Stadium, nevertheless this time we're not going to leave anything to chance.

Coach

vlado vanis

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Knights news

Jolic finally re-signs

Melbourne Knights defender Ivan Jolic has re-signed for the Melbourne Knights after a lengthy injury layoff.

Jolic hasn't made an appearance for almost two seasons now due to a chronic knee injury. But his eagerness to win back a spot in the Knights squad, together with some solid training form has convinced Vlado Vanis to give the experienced defender another shot at the big time.

The former St Albans defender will wear the No.27 jersey this season.

Jolic's experience and versatility will prove a valuable asset to the Knights, as he can play on either side of the park in a full back position, or as a central defender.

Michael Bosevski has left due to personal reasons

Unfortunately for the Knights, young defender Michael Bosevski has left the club for personal reasons.

Bosevski has just come off a gruelling season in the VPL, followed by an equally tough pre season at the Knights, and the busy training schedule has taken its toll on the 20-year old.

The former VIS graduate will take a break before deciding on his future.

Bosevski has left the club on good terms and the Melbourne Knights Soccer Club would like to wish him all the best in the future.

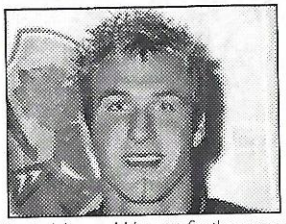
Injury sweeps Knights squad

Vlado Vanis' squad has been hit with two injuries to key players.

Defender Ransford Banini tore a groin muscle in last week's 1-0 away loss to Sydney Olympic after overstretching when attempting a tackle on Liberian striker Mass Sarr.

Banini is waiting for the outcome of some tests, however the diagnosis at this stage says that he'll be out for 3-4 weeks.

Whilst exciting young goalkeeper Martin John could be out for the remainder of the season.



Martin John could be out for the season

John broke his arm in a training mishap. This comes after his shoulder injury which occurred after the Round 1 match against Brisbane Strikers.

We wish 'Marti' all the best for a speedy recovery, and hope to see him back before the season concludes.

Today's curtain-raiser

Today a Victorian Vietnamese Community Select team is playing a second friendly against the Melbourne Knights at 3pm as a curtain-raiser to the Knights v Pride encounter.

The Vietnamese side is predominantly made up of the Springvale United club, and they will be travelling to Vietnam for a proposed Charity Tournament at the start of the new year.

INTERSTATE TRIP

The KNIGHTS ARMY will be making their first interstate appearance!

Friday December 22nd

Round 11 - Adelaide City Force v Melbourne Knights

Bus departing Friday from Knights Stadium at 6.30am sharp!

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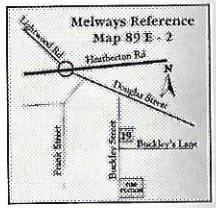

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Last week's match

A 93rd minute George Goutzioulis header condemned the Melbourne Knights to a 1-0 loss away to Sydney Olympic.

The boisterous home crowd celebrated wildly after midfielder Troy Halpin sent in a free kick from the left side of the park that somehow found the head of Goutzioulis, with the substitute managing to send his header just out of the reach of Lupce Acevski.

Before that, the Knights backed off for the last 20 minutes of the match, in an attempt to secure a precious away point against the league leaders.

The match could've gone either way, with Halpin testing Acevski early. His 30 yard thunderbolt struck the inside of the post and trickled across the goalmouth.

Joel Porter could've put the Knights ahead in the first half, when he skillfully turned his marker, but had his shot well saved by experienced keeper Clint Bolton.

Halpin again rattled the woodwork with another powerful 25-yard effort, before youngster Greg Owens had lined up from the edge of the penalty area but only managed to spray it past the post.

Adrian Cervinski provided a defence splitting thru pass for Andy Vargas, who fended off an opponent and sent his shot inches wide of the upright in the second half.

Owens had another great chance late in the second half after some brilliant lead up work from Nick Carle, but it was Goutzioulis' header with only 10 seconds remaining that saw the Knights go down to their fourth, and unluckiest defeat of the season.

Sydney Olympic **1 - 0** **Melbourne Knights**
G Goutzioulis 93'

1 Clint Bolton (gk)	20 Lou Acevski (gk)
2 Sebastian Sinozic	3 Rody Vargas
3 Lindsay Wilson (13. Damon Collina 71')	4 Sasa Ognenovski
4 Paul Kohler	9 Joel Porter (19. Anthony Pelikan 80')
6 Ante Juric	14 Paul Magdic
8 Ante Moric (15. Dylan MacAllister 79')	15 Ransford Banini (13. Antun Kovacic 31')
9 Mass Sarr (11. George Goutzioulis 61')	16 Alex Kiratzoglou
10 Troy Halpin	18 Andrew Vargas
12 Glenn Moore	21 Zoltan Zold
14 Greg Owens	22 Toto Da Costa (11. Xhezair Sulemani 75')
19 Nick Carle	25 Adrian Cervinksi

Referee: Simon Micallef

Cautions

Carle 65'	*A Vargas 39'*
Sinozic 84'	*Magdic 75'*

Joel Porter: Walking on Water

By David Davutovic

Joel Porter has been nothing short of a revelation for the Melbourne Knights this season. After playing 20 games and scoring 3 goals for the now defunct West Adelaide Sharks in the 1998/99 season, Porter was forced into playing another season in the South Australian Premier League, where he was second in the goalscoring charts.

Porter has not only been instrumental in the Knights' attacking thrusts, but he's also been spotted chasing opponents deep in his defensive half. His two goals so far this season don't tell a true tale, and Porter's enormous heart and work ethic on the field will no doubt see him add to his tally on numerous occasions throughout the season.

David Davutovic caught up exclusively with the powerful 21-year old attacker, who is under no illusions as to what his objectives are for this season.

David Davutovic: *Tell me about your playing history.*

Joel Porter: I played junior soccer with the Croydon Kings, and I started playing when I was 6. I played with West Adelaide Sharks for a year in the 1998/99 season but the club was axed before the 1999/2000 season begun. So I played out another season with Croydon.

Porter is aiming for a double-digit goal return this season

DD: What was your reaction when the Adelaide Sharks were kicked out of the league?

JP: It was very disappointing at the start because it was so close to the season and Myself, like a lot of the players, did not have a chance to go anywhere else.

DD: When did the proposition of playing for the Knights first pop up?

JP: Earlier this year, I got a call from Vlado Vanis, saying he's heard a lot about me, and he's interested in seeing me. I was looking to play NSL this year, but I had not received any other offers.

DD: How have you settled at the Knights?

JP: Excellent at this stage, we have three wins and 4 losses, which isn't too bad. We would like to be positioned a little better on the ladder. But personally I enjoy living here now, I enjoy playing for the team and playing under Vlado. Melbourne's a totally different city, it's taken me a while to get used to I'm still getting used to it. But the fact that I'm living with Toto (Da Costa) and Ivan Zelic makes it a little easier.

DD: What are your personal goals for this season?

JP: Just to have a good year and play some good soccer, and hopefully if all things go week the team can make the 6 and play in the finals. I'd like to score over 10 goals, but I suppose anything over that is a bonus.

DD: In your opinion, how ill the Knights go this season?

JP: So far this year there has only been one game where we have struggled, and that was against South Melbourne. Every other game we have either had the chance to win or we've won, so I think we're definite top 6 material, it's just a matter if we can stay mentally prepared and if we can keep going. Our inexperience is probably our worst aspect, and when we win we don't realise how important it is to keep on going and keeping on track, and one win is only one win, and I think as the season goes on we'll get better as a team at it.

Porter's strength and acceleration has seen him tear defences apart this season

DD: Describe the feeling in the camp after conceding the 93rd minute goal against Olympic last week.

JP: I do not think there's anything worse than conceding a goal that late in a game, it's almost as worse a feeling, as the one we had when we were demoralised by South Melbourne 4-1. We played pretty much good soccer for 90 minutes, and then to have it taken away with 10 seconds to go, it was a devastating feeling. We had a couple of good chances, and with a bit of luck going our way, which we haven't had a lot of this season, it might have been a different story.

DD: After playing Sydney Olympic last week, how far is Olympic ahead of the league, if at all?

JP: They're obviously the best team we have played so far, along with South Melbourne, but I do not think we are that far behind them to tell you the truth. I think there's a long year ahead of us, and they have had a good start, but I think when people work out their style. They won't run away with it that's for sure.

DD: What has the preparation been like during the week for the Pride match?

JP: I think we understand now that Eastern Pride is a must win game, and we're pretty much focused on definitely not losing. Although they're at the bottom of the table, they're one of the hardest games all year, because of the fact that they occasionally win against the bigger teams. So we have to look out for that and I think we're pretty pumped to make sure we're not one of those big named teams to lose to them.

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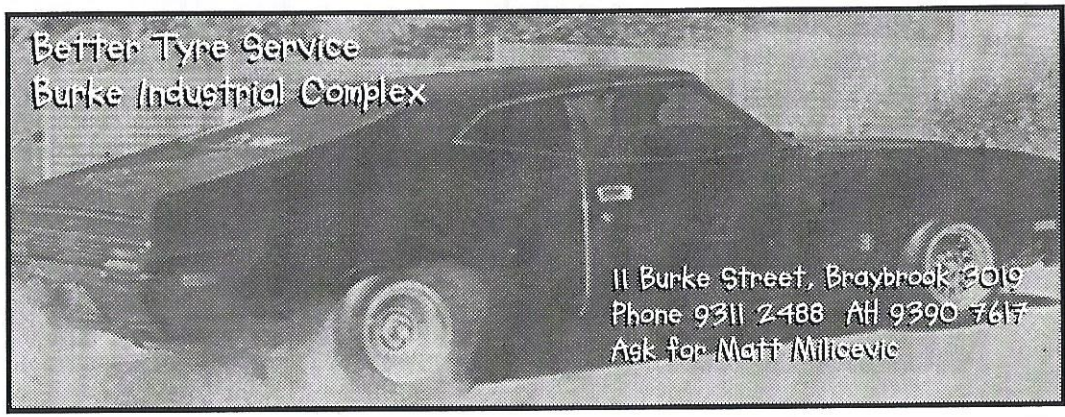

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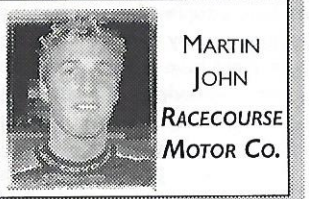

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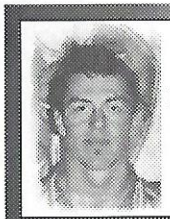

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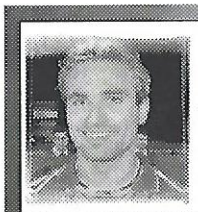

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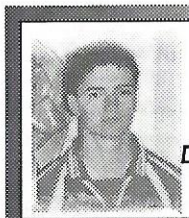

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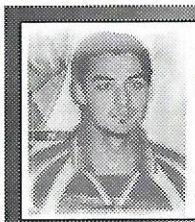

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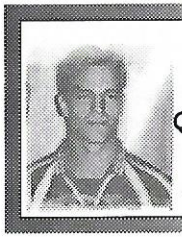

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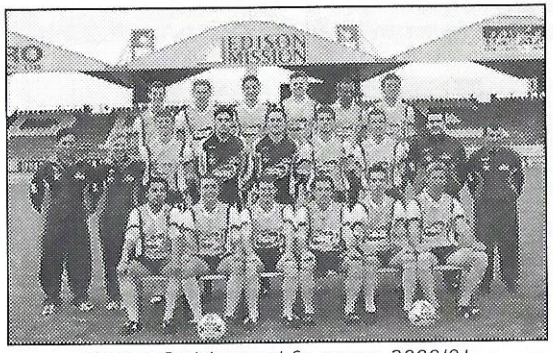
Opposition Focus

EASTERN PRIDE SQUAD FOR TODAY'S MATCH

E. Galekovic (gk), D. Fak, M. Gotis, J. Buhagiar, C. Bell, A. Griffiths, J. Hutchinson, R. Puca, J. Nilo, N. Sekulovski, B. MacNicol, B. Cassar, P. Wearne, B. Jevdjevic (gk)



Eastern Pride's squad for season 2000/01

Off-season recruit Dong-Ki Kim is suspended for today's match

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Eastern Pride is eager to record their first victory of the season, and a loss today could cause the panic buttons to go off at Mobil Park. Today could prove all the more difficult to obtain result with arguably the Pride's two most influential players missing. Former Southend striker Neville Roach, who has been in superb form this season, is out with a hamstring strain, whilst experienced midfielder Don-Ki Kim is suspended after receiving a red card against Marconi.

Hopkins has placed an element of faith in his 19-year old keeper Eugene Galekovic, who had a superb match against the highly-rated Marconi last week. If the Pride are to challenge the Knights, they will need their engine-room firing, which means that Clayton Bell (returning from suspension), Robbie Puca and John Hutchinson will have to get on top of the likes of Alex Kiratzoglou and Zoltan Zold.

Daniel Watkins and Brian MacNicol will be relying on quality service from the middle if they are to pressure Lupce Acevski.

Jeff Hopkins - NSL coaching career

Eastern Pride coach Jeff Hopkins is under pressure as his side are yet to record a victory

Matches: *41*
Clubs: *Eastern Pride*
Record: *7 wins, 10 draws, 24 loss*

Eastern Pride,s second year coach Jeff Hopkins is keen to improve his record of only 7 wins from 41 matches, which includes a 100% record against the Knights (2 wins from 2 matches).

Hopkins was born in Wales before joining English club Fulham as an apprentice, where he played 213 English league games for the club between 1981 and 1987.

He also had stints at Crystal Palace (1988-89), Plymouth Argyle (1991), Bristol Rovers (1992) and Reading (1992-96).

The defender played 16 matches for the Welsh national team and five times for the Welsh U/21 team.

Hopkins, playing career concluded with Selangor (Malaysia) between 1996 and 1998 and in the NSL with Gippsland Falcons in 1998 and 1999.

Today's match

By Lance Jenkinson

HEAD TO HEAD (Overall):	
Played:	17
Knights wins:	8
Pride wins:	7
Draws:	2

HEAD TO HEAD (in Melbourne)	
Played:	9
Knights wins:	4
Pride wins:	4
Draws:	1

Melbourne Knights return to Somers Street to face Victorian country rivals, Eastern Pride, after travelling to Sydney and taking the game right up to ladder leaders, Sydney Olympic.

The Knights', sitting in 11th spot on the ladder, are struggling to stay in touch with the top six after suffering a heartbreaking 1-0 loss to Olympic when George Goutzioulis headed in a Troy Halpin free kick in the dying seconds of the match.

The Pride sit rock bottom of the ladder with only two points from their first seven matches. Last week, they broke a five game losing streak and regained much needed confidence going into today's match after their 0-0 draw with Marconi. Ironically, they still boast the leagues worst defensive record of 15 goals against. A victory is vital for both clubs.

English import Neville Roach will be missing after straining a hamstring

In recent weeks, the Pride has signed Daniel Watkins and Adam Griffiths on loan from Northern Spirit to boost their goal scoring stocks up forward. Griffiths is likely to come off the bench leaving experienced Brian MacNicol to pair up with Watkins in attack.

Playing in his debut season, Knights' young defender Saso Ognenovski has cemented his spot in the Knights' defence with some brilliant performances in the past two weeks. He will have the job of stopping Watkins leaving Rody Vargas to mark MacNicol.

The Pride boasts a very inexperienced midfield. Ante Deak came into the starting eleven last week to add a bit of speed in the centre. He joined Michael Katz, Robbie Puca, John Hutchinson and Dong Ki Kim. Kim will be missing from action due to suspension, after receiving a red card during last week's match. Captain Clayton Bell will replace Kim in a straight swap. Bell's experience will be vital to the Pride midfield, and this is highlighted by the fact that he's the only midfielder with 100 games to his credit.

The Pride has dearly missed experienced campaigners Mehmet Durakovic and Andy Vargas who departed to South Melbourne and the Melbourne Knights respectively. Vargas, who will join Alex Kiratzoglou, Paul Magdic and Zoltan Zold in the midfield, has been Mr. Consistency since crossing from the Falcons. Unfortunately for the Knights, the livewire midfielder is out through suspension.

Defensively for the Pride, the numbers don't look good. They've let in 15 goals in seven matches, but last weeks defensive effort against Marconi would have brought a smile to the face of Coach Jeff Hopkins. Featuring in that defence was best-on-ground Paul Wearne, 31 year old Manny Gotis and Dean Fak. 19-year old goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic has been superb in his two matches so far for the Pride since replacing the experienced Bojo Jevdjevic.

Trying to break the Pride's defence will be Knights' forwards Adrian Cervinski, Toto Da Costa and Joel Porter who are starting gel together as a lethal attacking combination.

Last season, consistency was a huge problem for the Knights'. They would take it up to a top team one week and get beaten by a lower ranked team the next.

If the Knights' play to their full potential they will register a victory against the Pride, but this is a real danger game for the home team with the Pride desperate to notch up their first win of the season.

Stars of Tomorrow Shine

By Tonci Prusac

Last Friday night, under a clear starry sky on a balmy evening in Melbourne's Western Suburbs, the NSL Youth League 'derby' game between the Melbourne Knights Youth and the Knights Academy was augmented by several stars of a different kind - those from the senior team.

With senior captain Jason Vukadin, along with his vice-captain Dragi Nastevski, struggling to maintain a first team spot due to a (temporary) slump in form, the small crowd were treated to star studded NYL Round 5 encounter.

Knights' Head Coach, Vlado Vanis, insisted on each team fielding its maximum quota of three over-age players.

In a bid to get the senior players, vital to the Knights' fortunes this season back into top form, Vanis used this tactic despite it not proving too popular with the parents of some of the regular Youth teamers, who as a result might've missed out on a starting eleven berth.

Although their personal disappointment is somewhat understandable, at the same time they have to, nevertheless, be aware of the 'bigger picture'.

And by having their boys regularly exposed to training and playing with senior NSL players, their level of knowledge and soccer ability can only get better.

Ironically then, despite the Youth fielding Hrvoje Matkovic, Ivan Zelic and Joey Rajher and the Academy fielding Jason Vukadin, Dragi Nastevski and Josip Kozic, it was in fact several of the more promising youngsters that impressed the crowd, which included Vanis himself.

In an extremely entertaining Round Five fixture, the Melbourne Knights Youth beat its Academy counterparts by three goals to one in a very even and competitive game.

After Josip Loncaric opened the scoring for the Youth in the first minute, Serkan Doganay very quickly equalised. Jasmin Sehic, who was particularly impressive with his menacing runs and close ball skills, put the Youth ahead again after fifteen minutes.

Just after the half-time interval Loncaric got his second goal which sent him to the top of the League's goalscoring charts. Loncaric, who has taken over from last year's top score Anthony Pelikan as the Knights' youth team's No. 1 striker, has scored six times so far this season.

The midfield battle was the highlight as both sides tried to establish supremacy.

Another Youth player who was particularly impressive was tough midfielder/defender Ivan Gelemanovic, who has regularly trained with the Senior squad and, judging on current form, is almost certain to be called up into the Seniors sometime during the current NSL season.

The attention, this weekend, turns to Round 6 and the top of the table clash between the leaders, Eastern Pride, and second placed Knights Youth.

With only goal difference separating the two teams, it would be a crying shame if Friday night's clash at Knights Stadium doesn't attract a much larger crowd.

And with another exciting battle looming between the Knights' Loncaric and Eastern Pride's chief striker Denis Mustac (who has also scored 6 goals) for the coveted leading Goalscorer's position, Friday night's clash involving the Youth of the Melbourne Knights is expected to be a mouth-watering exhibition of top-of-the-table soccer.

Just a reminder, kick-off is at 7.30pm allowing any interested patrons plenty of time to pop into the Social Club for dinner then venture over to the Grandstands and watch quality youth league soccer in action.

The Academy side, meanwhile, will be away to bottom of the ladder Preston, at BT Connor Reserve, on Saturday at 4pm.

National Youth League

By Roy Hay

Melbourne Knights Youth beat its Academy side by three goals to one in a very even and competitive game. First team coach Vlado Vanis allocated three senior players to each side to maintain the balance, and after Josip Loncaric opened the scoring for the Youth in the first minute, Serkan Doganay very quickly equalised.

Jasmin Sehic put the Youth ahead again in fifteen minutes, and just after the interval Loncaric got his second goal. The midfield battle was the highlight as both sides tried to establish supremacy.

Carlton bounced back to beat the VIS by four goals to nil. Carlton coach Phil Stubbins, reports, 'This was a very impressive result for the club. The side played with real heart and commitment against the V.I.S. today. Every player performed somewhere near his best and as a group everyone was in it together.' Stubbins played four fifteen year olds, including John Tran and Frank Lagana who both started.

'Peter Koutsoupias played his first game for the club coming on in the 60th min and became a real handful for the VIS's backline, unlucky not to score on a couple of occasions. John Petridis also came on and did exceptionally well as stopper.

New signing Brett Manzella played in goal having just turned 16. He is one to look out for, getting over a shaky start and saving a penalty on his debut. To be fair to Ernie Merrick's boys they were missing a couple of key players, who I'm sure may have made a difference.

The VIS look to have some very competent young players and I'm sure Ernie's team will provide some real stars of the future. In particular, I was impressed with both Spase Dilevski at sweeper and Brendan Beni in the midfield. However, I thought on the day Carlton played some excellent football and I was proud of the way they bounced back and performed considering last week's bad loss to Eastern Pride.'

Eastern Pride demolished Fawkner Blues by eight goals to one. Hat tricks to Juan Nilo and Ben Cassar and singles to Denis Mustac, keeping up his goal a game run, and Adam Griffiths produced the eight for the Pride. Brett Cunningham kept up his fine goalscoring touch with the goal for the Blues.

Green Gully led South Melbourne Eagles Academy by a goal to nil from the 21st minute when Darko Jakovljevic scored for the home team, but a late flurry by the Eagles saw them get up by three goals to one.

Alfie El Dib scored on the hour then added his second and the Eagles third in 88 minutes. Michael Vonja chipped in with a goal in 84 minutes. South Dandenong made the long run to Albury Wodonga and opened with a goal by Veton Korcarevski after 13 minutes.

In very hot conditions both sides sought relief and water breaks, but the Warriors showed enough fortitude to grab an equaliser through Elliot Jones in 64 minutes.

The Warriors had a one-on-one with the keeper but when that was not converted both sides had to settle for the draw.

The byes this week involved Carlton Peninsula Blues and Preston Lions.

Southern Division 2000-01 ~ Round Five

Melbourne Knights Academy 1
(Sertan Doganay)
Melbourne Knights 3
(Josip Loncaric 2, Jasmin Sehic)

Eastern Pride 8
(Juan Nilo 3, Ben Cassar 3, Adam Griffiths, Denis Mustac)
Fawkner Blues 1
(Brett Cunningham)

VIS 0
Carlton Institute 4
(Frank Lagana, Isayin Erdogan, Steve Martin, Daniel Debevc)

Green Gully 1
(Darko Jakovljevic)
South Melbourne Eagles Academy 3
(Alfie El Dib 2, Michael Vonja)

Albury Wodonga 1
(Elliot Jones)
South Dandenong 1
(Veton Korcarevski)

Monday 27 November 2000
South Melbourne 2
(Marco Sentili, Vince Lia)
Bulleen Zebras 4
(Shaun Kana, Steve Bouios, own goal, Carmelo Impiombato)

Carlton Peninsula Blues v Bye
Preston Lions v Bye

Leading Goalscorers Southern Division

6 goals:
Denis Mustac (Eastern Pride)
Josip Loncaric (Melbourne Knights)

5 goals:
Daniel Debevc (Carlton)
Nick Waite (Carlton Peninsula Blues)
Juan Nilo (Eastern Pride)
Victor Memeti (South Dandenong)

4 goals:
Carlo Malina Carlton Peninsula Blues
Brett Cunningham Fawkner Blues

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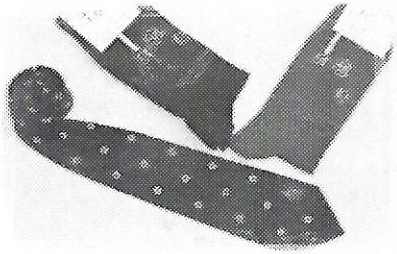

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Key match-ups By David Davutovic

ALEX KIRATZOGLOU V CLAYTON BELL

Eastern Pride,s captain Clayton Bell is returning from suspension for today,s match, and he,ll be a welcome addition in the depleted Pride midfield. Kiratzoglou has been the stand-in captain for the past two weeks, and the added responsibility has only seen his form improve. Kiratzoglou,s silky smooth skills are the complete contrary to Bell,s simple style of soccer, and the winner of this midfield match up will have their team in the box seat.

V

ADRIAN CERVINSKI V MANNY GOTIS

The return of Adrian Cervinski proved inspirational a fortnight ago against United, unfortunately he couldn't repeat the dose last week. As the sharpshooter slowly regains full match fitness, he,s proving all the more dangerous. Experienced Pride defender Manny Gotis is likely to man-mark Cervinski and it should prove to be a tight tussle. Gotis is one of the strongest defenders in the league, and is no slouch in aerial duels. But Gotis, lack of skill could find him wanting on a few occasions, and Cervinski might only need the one chance to punish the Pride.

V

LUPCE ACEVSKI V EUGENE GALEKOVIC

This match up could easily decide the result of today,s match. They are two of the most inexperienced keepers in the league, however both have displayed the early-season form that confirms their status as two of the hottest young prospects in the NSL. Acevski has been superb since replacing Martin John in goals, and likewise Galekovic, who succeeded the out of form Bojo Jevdjevic two weeks ago, and was brilliant in his sides, scoreless draw against Marconi last week. Galekovic was on the Knights, books last season, but didn't manage an appearance after a transfer saga with former club Bulleen.

Bert's Beef By Bert van Bedaf

PUTTING THE PAST TO REST

Australia's 2-2 draw with Iran on November 29, 1997, at the MCG in front of 90,000 spectators has been categorised as a defining moment in the history of Australian soccer.

So much so that it warrants an SBS documentary, a sizeable newspaper feature and further recriminations as to the why and how the Socceroos let victory slip from their grasp (or draw 0-0) and therefore failed to qualify for the World Cup in France "98 on away goals.

Like the Anzacs at Gallipoli, there seems to be a desire to elevate defeat to heroic crescendo. But why November 29, 2000, should become the date to remember or commemorate what took place at the MCG is puzzling and unexplained.

Should we blame it on the serial spoiler Peter Hore, who dislodged the net with 20 minutes to go? It certainly was a turning point and allowed Iran to regroup. But it seems cheap. Australia also had time to rethink tactics and play out the game without conceding two goals.

"We played so well for 70 minutes and then we tired," said Graham Arnold, who came off the bench for his last cap. "We got caught square," Venables said.

"About that goal. It's a blur," Steve Horvat recalled.

The former Melbourne Knights defender, now with Carlton, is tight-lipped as he remembers how the ball cut through the defence and past Mark Bosnich for the fatal equaliser.

"The path and the ball were perfectly timed. They (Iran) broke us up. There could be many reasons for that. It's still a mystery. But it's still a nightmare and one we want to put behind us," Horvat said.

"It's the way the game is and the way it panned out," goal scorer Aurelio Vitmar said.

"It was one of the saddest sporting moments in my life. There's no excuse. We were up 2-0 and we should have won the game," coach Terry Venables admitted.

There are few Anzacs left, but lest we forget, we remember their sacrifice at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month. But as far as the Socceroos are concerned, the events of three years ago can no longer teach us any lessons.

The future is the World Cup in Japan and South Korea in 2002. The present focus is on qualification. Let's put the past to rest and forget about Iran.

Let's concentrate on what must be achieved in the months ahead.

Bert is Victorian editor of Australian & British Soccer Weekly and soccer writer for Leader Newspapers.

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Welcome Aboard in Season 2000/01

Fixtures

ROUND	DATE	TEAMS	KICK OFF	VENUE
6	19/11/00	**Melbourne Knights** Vs Sydney United	6.00pm	Knights Stadium
7	26/11/00	Sydney Olympic Vs **Melbourne Knights**	6.00pm	Belmore Sports Grnd.
8	03/12/00	**Melbourne Knights** Vs Eastern Pride	**5:00pm**	Knights Stadium
9	08/12/00	Kingz Vs **Melbourne Knights**	7:30pm	Ericsson Stadium
10	17/12/00	**Melbourne Knights** Vs Northern Spirit	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
11	22-12-00	Adelaide City Force Vs **Melbourne Knights**	8:00pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
12	30-12-00	**Melbourne Knights** Vs Perth Glory	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
13	07-01-01	Carlton Vs **Melbourne Knights**	TBA	TBA
14	14-01-01	**Melbourne Knights** Vs Marconi Stallions	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
15	19-01-01	Newcastle Breakers Vs **Melbourne Knights**	7:30pm	Breakers Stadium
16	28-01-01	**Melbourne Knights** Vs Brisbane Strikers	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
17	02-02-01	Parramatta Power Vs **Melbourne Knights**	7:30pm	Parramatta Stadium
18	11-02-01	**Melbourne Knights** Vs Canberra Cosmos	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
19	17-02-01	Wollongong Wolves Vs **Melbourne Knights**	6:30pm	WIN Stadium
20	25-02-01	**Melbourne Knights** Vs South Melbourne	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
21	04-03-01	Sydney United Vs **Melbourne Knights**	4:00pm	Sydney United Sports Centre
22	11-03-01	**Melbourne Knights** Vs Sydney Olympic	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
23	17-03-01	Eastern Pride Vs **Melbourne Knights**	7:00pm	Mobil Park
24	25-03-01	**Melbourne Knights** Vs Kingz	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
25	30-03-01	Northern Spirit Vs **Melbourne Knights**	7:30pm	North Sydney Oval
26	08-04-01	**Melbourne Knights** Vs Adelaide City Force	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
27	14-04-01	Perth Glory Vs **Melbourne Knights**	7:00pm	Perth Oval
28	22-04-01	**Melbourne Knights** Vs Carlton	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
29	25-04-01	Marconi Stallions Vs **Melbourne Knights**	7:00pm	Marconi Stadium
30	29-04-01	**Melbourne Knights** Vs Newcastle Breakers	3:00pm	Knights Stadium

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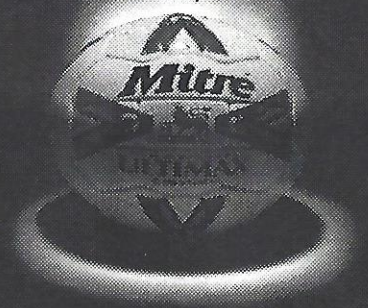

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Review - Round 7

Kings FC 0
Carlton 0
Venue: Ericsson Stadium
Crowd: 6,605

Eastern Pride 0
Marconi Stallions 0
Venue: Mobil Park
Crowd: 2,245

Northern Spirit 2 (A Moreira 25', B Burgess 58')
Perth Glory 0
Venue: North Sydney Oval
Crowd: 5,764

Wollongong Wolves 2 (D Huxley 16', S Petrovski 86')
Canberra Cosmos 3 (A Castro 46', J Angelucci 64', 66')
Venue: WIN Stadium
Crowd: 3,876

Adelaide City 1 (A Vidmar 62')
Newcastle United 1 (J Buonavoglia 53' pen)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Crowd: 3,904

Sydney United 1 (A Deur 47')
Brisbane Strikers 1 (P Foster 69')
Venue: Sydney United Sports
Crowd: 3,875

South Melbourne 1 (J Anastasiadis 95')
Parramatta Power 1 (A Tobin 13')
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Crowd: 6,803

Sydney Olympic 1 (G Goutzioulis 93')
Melbourne Knights 0
Venue: Belmore Sports Ground
Crowd: 6,182

NSL Ladder

	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	**Sydney Olympic**	7	5	2	0	+10	17
2	**Wollongong Wolves**	7	4	2	1	+4	14
3	**South Melbourne**	7	3	3	1	+7	12
4	**Carlton SC**	7	3	3	1	+4	12
5	**Northern Spirit**	7	3	2	2	+4	11
6	**Perth Glory**	7	3	2	3	+3	11
7	Sydney United	7	3	2	2	-4	11
8	Canberra Cosmos	7	3	1	3	+2	10
9	Adelaide City Force	7	3	1	3	-4	10
10	Marconi Stallions	7	2	3	2	+1	9
11	**Melbourne Knights**	**7**	**3**	**0**	**4**	**-2**	**9**
12	Parramatta Power	7	2	1	4	-2	7
13	Kingz FC	7	2	1	4	-4	7
14	Newcastle United	7	1	3	3	-7	6
15	Brisbane Strikers	7	1	2	4	-5	5
16	Eastern Pride	7	0	2	5	-7	2

Leading Goalscorers:

Archie Thompson (*Carlton*)	6	Andy Vlahos (*South Melbourne*)	5
Jon Angelucci (*Canberra Cosmos*)	5	Tim Stevens (*Kingz FC*)	4
Ben Burgess (*Northern Spirit*)	5		
Damian Mori (*Perth Glory*)	5		

Knights Abroad

- Former Knight and international superstar **MARK VIDUKA** played a full game as Leeds United beat Arsenal 1-0 at home in the English Premier League. He also played a full match as Leeds was beaten 2-0 at home by Real Madrid in the opening Second Group Stage match. Next up for Leeds is an away clash with Lazio on December 5.

Viduka's teammate, and Australia's other highest profiled international soccer star Harry Kewell has returned in a reserve grade match for Leeds United, and has reportedly pulled up well. He should be back in senior action within a fortnight.

- **DANNY TIATTO** came off the bench in the 36th minute, as Manchester City lost 3-2 at home to Ipswich. Tiatto has caused headlines recently following his verbal conflicts with players from cross-town rivals Manchester United. Full back Phil Neville has attacked Tiatto for a vicious challenge on him in a recent match against the English giants, describing it as a "coward's tackle". But Tiatto has hit back, describing his comments as "pathetic", and insisted: "If he wants to see me put in a real tackle, then I'm more than willing when I next come up against him," said Tiatto. I guess we'll have to look forward to the next encounter.

- **NED ZELIC**, brother of injured Knights midfielder Ivan, played a full game, as 1860 Munich drew 2-2 away with Parma in the UEFA Cup, the return leg to be played December 5.

- Influential sweeper **JOSIP SIMUNIC** remained on the bench, as his side Hertha Berlin drew 0-0 at home with Inter Milan (Italy), the return leg to be played December 7.

- Goalkeeper **VILSON KNEZEVIC** played a full game, as Germinal Beerschot lost 1-0 at home to Anderlecht in the Belgium 1st Division.

- **JOE SPITERI** came off the bench in the 86th minute, as Lierse beat La Louviere 2-0 away from home in the Belgium 1st Division. Spiteri has just returned after a lengthy injury layoff..

- LG Socceroo **JOSIP SKOKO** played a full match and picked up a yellow card, as Racing Genk lost 2-1 away to Standard Liege.

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Who said that????

"I don't think there's anything worse than conceding a goal that late in a game... We played pretty much good soccer for 90 minutes, and then to have it taken away with 10 seconds to go, it was a devastating feeling."

- Knights striker Joel Porter on George Goutzioulis' 93rd minute winner at Belmore.

"Over 90 minutes it was probably the most disciplined we've been."

- Eastern Pride coach Jeff Hopkins on last weeks nil-all home draw against Marconi.

"I don't think anyone should underestimate Eastern Pride. With that sort of commitment and discipline, it's only a matter of time before it starts to click."

- Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic commenting on his former side, Eastern Pride.

"Sydney Olympic are the best side in the NSL so I'm not too unhappy with today's result"

- Knights coach Vlado Vanis on last weeks match.

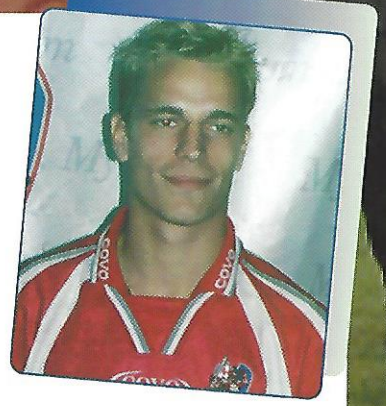
"It's just around the corner. We've been playing some good football, but it's not just about the quality of football you play, you've got to be well organised, and you've got to be consistent for the full 90 minutes."

- Hopkins on how far away their first win of the season is.

"Melbourne Knights is always a very tough game and it's a very physical game and they're quick to handle that. After last week's result, we'll be going down there confident we can get something out of the game."

- Hopkins on his side's chances today.

Player Profile



Name:	*Zoltan Zold*
Nickname:	*Zoli*
D-O-B:	*20/08/79*
Star sign:	*Leo*
City of birth:	*Esztergom/Hungary*
Ethnic Origin:	*Hungarian*
Occupation:	*Full time soccer player*
Marital status:	*single*
Height:	*186cm*
Weight:	*80kg*
Brand soccer boor worn:	*adidas, Kappa*
Clubs played for:	*Melbourne Knights, Ferencvarosi TC*
Career highlight to date:	*Hungarian Olympic Team*
Favourite actor:	*Wesley Snipes*
Favourite actress:	*Jennifer Love Hewitt*
Last movie seen:	*My Favorite Martian*
Favourite magazine:	*Cosmopolitan*
Favourite band/singer:	*Enrique Inglesias*
Favourite food:	*Stuffed Cabbage*
Favourite TV show:	*Who wants to be a millionaire?*
Favourite overseas player:	*Fernando Redondo*
Favourite overseas team:	*Real Madrid*
Most admired Australian (local):	*Alex Kiratzoglou*
Most admired Australian (OS):	*Mark Viduka*
Most admired coach:	*Kevin Keegan*
Hardest opponent (team):	*Sparta Moscow*
Hardest opponent (player):	*Otto Vince*
Most admired sportsperson:	*Michael Johnson*
Major influences:	*My Dad*

Coach	Vlado VANIS
1	Martin JOHN
3	Rodrigo VARGAS
4	Sasa OGNENOVSKI
5	Jason VUKADIN (C)
6	Joey RAJHER
7	Josip KOZIC
8	Dragi NASTEVSKI
9	Joel PORTER
10	Ivan ZELIC
11	Xhezair SULEMANI
12	Michael BOSEVSKI
13	Antun KOVACIC
14	Paul MAGDIC
15	Ransford BANINI
16	Alex KIRATZOGLOU
17	Ivan RAZOV
18	Andy VARGAS
19	Anthony PELIKAN
20	Lupce ACEVSKI
21	Zoltan ZOLD
22	Toto Da COSTA
24	Hrvoje MATKOVIC
25	Adrian CERVINSKI
29	Robert GRASKOSKI
30	Damir SALCIN

Coach	Jeff HOPKINS
1	Bojo JEVDJEVIC
2	Dean FAK
3	Manny GOTIS
4	Dong KI KIM
5	Ante DEAK
6	Brian MACNICHOL
7	Michael KATZ
8	Clayton BELL
9	Neville ROACH
10	Robbie PUCA
11	John HUTCHINSON
12	Naum SEKULOVSKI
14	Juan NILO
15	Jonathan BUHAGIAR
16	Ben CASSAR
17	Paul WEARNE
18	Daniel WATKINS
19	Adam GRIFFITHS
20	Eugene GALEKOVIC

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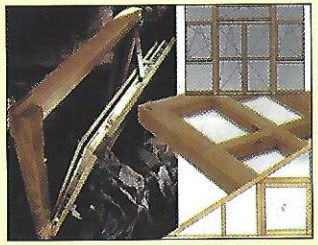
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